

# The Purpose of Our Salvation 2:1-10\*

1. How are believers to grow? 2:1-3
2. God is building up believers 2:4-5
3. God has laid in Zion a choice stone 2:6-8
4. Our identity as the Body of Christ 2:9-10

\* McCalley/Constable

2:2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation

- This is God's plan for every single believer!

main verb\*

*you*

long for  
[desire]

the pure milk  
*of the Word*

- *you* [lit: you all] – not just new believers but all believers no matter how old in the Lord
- *long for* (*epipotheo*) - imperative mood, a command
- *epipotheo* - speaks of an intense yearning; that which believers are to have for “*the pure spiritual milk*” Wuest
- Phil 1:8 For God is my witness, how I *long for* you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

2:2 like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word,  
so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation

*you*

long for  
[desire]

the pure milk  
*of the Word*

- lit: “the pure spiritual milk”
- **milk** (*gala*) is described by two adjectives:
- **pure** (*adolos*) – means unadulterated or unmixed;  
it has nothing added to it Wuest
- **spiritual** (*logikós*) - the phrase “**spiritual milk**” literally  
“logical milk,” refers to the spiritual nourishment found  
in the Word of God
- **logikos** means reason, and is often used to describe  
God's intelligence expressed in human words Zodhiates
- **this nourishment** may be understood as being of a  
spiritual nature which develops spiritual growth Vine

## Today's verses

### 1 Peter 2:4-8

<sup>4</sup> And coming to Him as to a **living stone** which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God, <sup>5</sup> you also, as **living stones**, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

<sup>6</sup> For *this* is contained in Scripture: "**BELIEVING IN ZION A STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone**, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED

<sup>7</sup> This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "**THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED**," BECAME THE VERY **CORNER**

<sup>8</sup> and, "**A STONE OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE**," For they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this *doom* they were also appointed.

<sup>4</sup> And [you] coming to Him as to **a living stone** which has been rejected by men, but is choice and precious in the sight of God,  
<sup>5</sup> **you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house** for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**you also** - believers

**are being built up** – metaphorically, to build up, establish, confirm – present, passive

- *oikodomeo* is the word showing how God is at work and it refers to a continuous process
- Acts 9:31a So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria enjoyed peace, **being built up**; and going on in the fear of the Lord.
- Next, two similes are presented about the believer  
**as brave as a lion**

## 1<sup>st</sup> - as a spiritual house:

- a “spiritual house” - house refers to the whole body of Christ (the house is made up of all believers) Wuest
- this spiritual house is *lit*: to be a holy priesthood

## 2<sup>nd</sup> - as living stones:

**stone** – *lithos* - means a worked stone like a gem or a stone cut for a building.

- **stone** is used both of Christ and believers in verses 4-5
- In the Old Testament we see similar word used:
  - Deut 32:4 "**The Rock**! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness, etc.
  - Ps 62:7 On God my salvation and my glory rest; **the rock** of my strength, my refuge is in God.

## **stone** [singular]:\*

- This Living Stone in the Person of God, the Son, became incarnate, lived for thirty-three years in the midst of Israel, offered Himself as its Messiah.
- First, we are told our position: “living stones,” the same title as applied to Christ.
- Note the metaphor has changed from growing as a newborn baby to a building.
- Peter also changed it from an individual to a corporate focus.
- However, unlike a piece of rock, Jesus Christ is alive and able to impart strength to those who have trusted Him as Savior.

<sup>6</sup> For *this* is contained in Scripture: "BEHOLD IN ZION A CHOICE  
STONE, A PRECIOUS CORNER stone, AND HE WHO BELIEVES IN  
HIM WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED"

- Now we have a quote from Isa 28:16:
- Behold I place in Zion a corner stone, chosen, precious and the one believing on Him never will be ashamed. \*
- **corner** - *akrogōniaios* - a chief corner-stone (from *akros*, "highest, extreme," *gōnia*, "a corner, angle")
- **chosen** - *electos* - is literally "a chosen-out one"
- **precious** - has the idea of "held in honor."
- **disappointed** - means "to be put to shame" in the sense of being defeated or deceived in some hope
- This Living Stone, the Lord Jesus, becomes the Chief Cornerstone of the temple, the Church, the One who is not only its foundation, but also that which holds the Church together.



<sup>7</sup> This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "THE STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED BECAME THE VERY CORNER stone,"

- These verses will answer the question how does a believer and unbeliever view the “the stone.” McCalley

This precious value [Christ], then, is for you who believe  
precious value - *timé* - honor, respect, reverence, esteem

- honor rendered or exhibited towards a person or thing
- Heb 3:3 For He has been counted worthy of more glory [time] than Moses, by just so much as the builder of the house has more honor than the house.
- A believer is simply a person who takes God's viewpoint as his own (God calls Christ precious, and we call Christ precious). McCalley

<sup>7</sup> This precious value, then, is for you who believe; but for those who disbelieve, "**THE STONE** WHICH THE BUILDERS ~~REJECTED~~ **BECAME** THE VERY CORNER *stone*,"

but for those who disbelieve

disbelieve - *apisteō* - to be unbelieving, believed not

- 1 Peter 3:1 In the same way, you wives, be submissive to your own husbands so that even if any of them are “**disobedient** to the word,” they may be won without a word by the behavior of their wives.
- This refers to those who are unpersuaded or the followers of those who rejected Christ. McCalley
- The contrast is between what the Living Stone means to believers and what He [Christ] becomes to the unbelievers because they refuse to allow Him to become precious to them. Wuest

**First:** from verse 7b

"**THE STONE** WHICH THE BUILDERS REJECTED BECAME THE VERY CORNER *stone*,"

- The builders are the religious leaders who rejected Christ (Acts 4:8-11).

Acts 4:11 "He is the **STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED** by you, THE BUILDERS [**rulers and elders**], but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone.

**Second:** from verse 8a

A **STONE** OF STUMBLING AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE

**stumbling** - *proskomma* - an obstacle against which one may dash his foot

- Both stumbling and offense are connected with unbelief in the person and work of Christ.

:8b for they stumble because they are disobedient to the word, and to this *doom* they were also appointed.

for they [unbeliever] stumble

because they are disobedient to the word

disobedient – *apeitheō* - to refuse to be persuaded,  
to refuse belief [present tense]

- Acts 14:2 But the Jews who **disbelieved** stirred up the minds of the Gentiles and embittered them against the brethren.

the word – God's Word

and to this *doom* they were also appointed

What is “the doom” in this verse?

Why were they appointed to this doom?

# Christ is pictured as the stone/rock\*

The Bible makes applications of the word **stone** as applied to Christ:

- The **type** application (Exodus 17:6; I Corinthians 10:4)
- The **foundation** application (I Corinthians 3:11)
- The **stumbling** application (Rom 9:32-33 where human righteousness is built instead of divine righteousness)
- The **Messianic** application (of Jesus' first coming, I Corinthians 1:23)
- His **second coming** (Zechariah 4:7)
- The **sovereignty** application (Daniel 2:34)
- The **judgment** application (Matthew 21:44)